

# PERFIN POTPOURRI

by Jack Brandt

## I U. S. PRECANCEL PERFINS

Going through some US precancel Perfins recently, I noted some Perfin types that had more than one precancel town. One of the common ones is NEMO (N70), shown in Figure 1, which is known with both New York, N.Y., and Jamaica, N.Y. There are many others with two towns. One I found with three towns is WU (W199-21), shown in Figure 2, which I have with Hoboken, N.J., New York, N.Y., and Brooklyn, N.Y. Are there more threes and possibly fours and fives?



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

## II NON RECTANGULAR PERFINS

I recently acquired a Perfin on a hexagonal stamp, and it got me to wondering what Perfins exist on non-rectangular stamps. Having an interest in revenue Perfins gives me a wider field than most, but there are some on postal issues, I am sure. The illustrations show:

Figure 3. Hexagon - Perfin BA - Belgium, telegraph stamp.

Figure 4. Diamond - Perfin S - Switzerland, revenue stamp.

Figure 5. Equilateral triangle - Perfin K.P. - Austria, special handling stamp.

Figure 6. Right-angle triangle - Perfin A (probably cancel Perfin) - Panama, revenue.

I am sure there are more Perfins on these shapes, but are there more types of non-rectangles?



Fig. 3

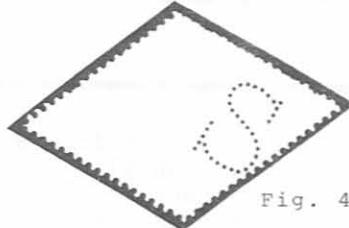


Fig. 4

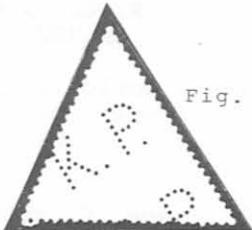


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

## III SPECIMEN PERFINS

In the last Perfins Auction, I picked up a SPECIMEN Perfin at a very reasonable price,

and this made me suspect that most of the members are either not interested in these, or are not informed, so I thought I would send along a few types to be illustrated in the Bulletin.

First, there is one type (Figure 7) that was available for postage. This is from British Guiana, and is listed in Scott as #103-106. The note after 106 states they were to prevent fraud on the government.

Most of the other specimens around are from British colonies, and the Perfin was applied by the printer, to stamps that would be sent to UPU members. Types shown in Figures 8 through 14 are found on various colonies.



Fig. 7

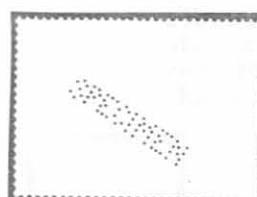


Fig. 8

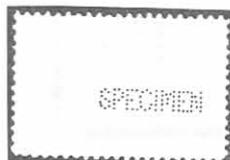


Fig. 9

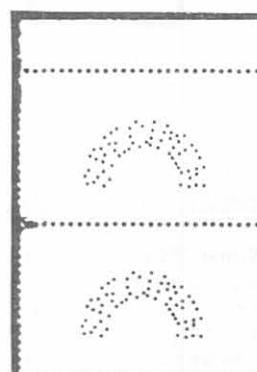


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

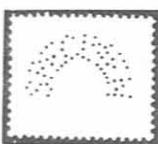


Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

The type shown in Figure 9 is found on a Turkish issue, but it was printed by Bradbury Wilkinson of England, so probably the same procedure was followed. The type shown in Figure 8 is on a recent Ghana issue, and I am not sure what was behind this one.

Very occasionally SPECIMENS are found in pairs.

SPECIMENS do not belong in a collection of private Perfins, but if you collect everything with holes in it, like I do, they do have a place in your collection.

(continued next page)

## PERFIN POTPOURRI (CONTINUED)

### IV BELGIUM PERIODS

Most collectors of foreign Perfins have a copy of the Belgium .S.G Perfin (Figure 15). When I first obtained this one many years ago, I thought I had a broken Perfin, and that there should be something in front of the first period. But, apparently such is not the case, since the user is probably the Societe General de Belgique. I have often wondered about this one, and what their thinking was at the time of ordering the machine. There are other Belgian SG's, and possibly it was just to differentiate.

Recently I picked up a Belgian revenue Perfin, with a B Perfin, with a hole in front of it (Figure 16), and I was wondering if this was a code hole or what. So far I have only one of these, and will have to find more to do some study of it.



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Queen Victoria issue, with what looks like an 1896 date. The cancel, however, is London, and it just might be a different company.

Figure 18 shows a B/T.H. (McKee-Tomkins #720) which I have on a couple of Edward VII issues, one with a 1906 date. Cancels appear to be Rugby.

Figures 19 and 20 are very similar, and may be from a two-head machine. These also I have on Edward VII issues, one with a London cancel, and the other with a 659 (identity not known to me). This type (McKee-Tomkins 718.1) may have been before or after the above.

Figure 21 I have on several stamps, all of George V vintage. Cancels are from Rugby, and the one dated one I have is 1916. This one is similar to Figures 19 and 20, but I feel may be a newer machine, especially since I have it only on newer issues.

Figure 22 shows the very common B/TH (McKee-Tomkins 718.2). This one appears to have come into use in the late 1920's, and was in use until at least 1958, which is my latest legible cancel.



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

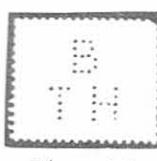


Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22

This study I have done just from the stamps themselves, and it is really only the first part of a study, which could be carried much farther.

### V GREAT BRITAIN B/TH

Some firms have used more than one perforating machine over their history, and trying to trace the period of use of each is an interesting pursuit. From Great Britain there are several B/TH Perfin types, some of which are known to be used by the British Thompson Houston Company, Ltd., of Rugby.

I have six types in my collection. However, two of them are very close, and may come from the same machine.

Figure 17 shows a B./T.H which I have on a